



*Contact: Douglas J. Klein, APR, CTA
MACC Executive Director
Office: (517) 676-1046
Home: (517) 676-3933
Cell: (517) 775-8601*

Celebrate July Fourth in Mason “Hometown U.S.A.”

If their Independence Day celebrations are any indication, you can see why Mason calls itself “Hometown USA.” The Mason holiday events are all on Wednesday, July 4 and include an old car show on the Courthouse Square from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Model T car rides from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the big evening parade downtown at 7:30 p.m., and the fireworks show east of the Ingham County Fairgrounds starting at dusk.

The Mason Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the largest Fourth of July evening parade in the mid-Michigan area. The step-off time is at 7:30 p.m. From fancy floats to flashy cars to tractors of all colors and sizes -- the parade has enough variety to please just about anyone. The Chamber’s parade events are sponsored by CP Federal Credit Union.

Starting from the Mason High School south parking lot, the parade proceeds north on Barnes, west on South Street, north on Jefferson, and then around the Courthouse by turning east on Maple and south on Barnes to return to the school’s west parking lot. The organizers remind people that this is an open parade, so all parade units are to line up at the Mason High School south parking lot at 6:00 p.m.

Those with trailers and vehicles not in the parade are to park them in the north and west lots and bring only parade units to the south lot. All units must abide by parade rules and city ordinances, including a prohibition on throwing candy or other items.

Before the big parade, the County Seat Old Car Club’s 32nd annual “Cruise Back in Time” car show will take up a good part of downtown Mason. The 200 entry show is open for viewing 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and draws crowds of people throughout the day. The show features food and beverage availability all day long provided by Mason area groups and restaurants.

The Mason First United Methodist Church parking lot, 201 E. Ash Street is where you and your family can catch a ride in classic Model T cars. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as available, they’ll take you on a 10-minute ride past Mason’s historic homes. There is a \$5 per family donation to the Central Michigan T’s Model T Owners Club. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

When it finally gets dark, there will be a fireworks show east of the Ingham County Fairgrounds, about eight blocks east of downtown. The fireworks are sponsored by the Mason Firefighters Association and are assisted by other area fire departments.

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